

1850.

## Fifty Years of Progress.

1900.

## WILDS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Strange Picture of Life and Scenery in Southeastern Mindanao.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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Davao, April 26, 1900.—I am in the town of Davao, in the southeastern part of the great island of Mindanao, in the wildest region of our Philippine possessions. In coming here I sailed 300 miles from the bay of Manila, about the province of Cottabato, going southward to about three hundred miles above the equator, then turning to the north and steaming through this enormous bay almost to its head.

We had mountains in sight all the way. The country is more rugged as you go toward the east, and we are now right under the shadow of Mt. Apo, the highest of the Philippine peaks. It lies nine miles almost due south of Davao town, but its slopes are populated with savages, and as far as is known, only one white man has ever gone to its top. This was Mt. Montano, who ascended it in 1893. He estimates its altitude at 16,230 feet, but the Spanish authorities claim that it is 700 feet higher, or more than two miles above sea level.

Mt. Apo is a volcano with an enormous crater, which promises at any time to break out into eruption. As I write I can see great clouds of vapor rolling out of its side toward the east, and early this morning I noticed this vapor mixed with flames of fire. The lower part of the volcano is wooded. There are huge tree ferns at its base, and its sides are almost covered with a mass of dark green. The summit looks chalk-like in the distance, and on the south side there are no trees whatever. The land at the foot of the mountain slopes down toward the gulf. It is a natural pasture covered with a rich growth of grass, falling so gently that it would seem to be an excellent place for a town. There are, I judge, about eight or ten miles of such slopes, a mile or so wide, all covered with masses of green. It would be a profitable site for a stock grazing ranch.

## MONKEYS, PARROTS AND WILD HOGS.

The country surrounding Davao is almost a wilderness. Only a short distance back from the town the jungle begins. If you walk a few miles in any direction you come into a land of monkeys, parrots and wild hogs. There are monkeys everywhere, even in the town itself. Nearly every one of our soldiers has his pet monkey, a little brown or black animal, about the size of a cat, and short tail. There are some tall monkeys in this part of the world, and some little ones not bigger than your own pets. One of the company cooks has a monkey named Bob which lives in the outdoor kitchen and makes war on every white stranger that comes within reach. A pet pup belonging to the company has been adopted by Bob and the person who touches the pup at once has a fight on his hands. Bob goes for him and the offender is lucky if he does not find the monkey's teeth in his leg.

There are parrots here of many colors, the most common being large white parrots with tufted heads. They fly about in flocks of twenty or more and may be seen anywhere in the woods or about the bay. Another parrot is of a bright red, with wings of an even brighter green. It is not so large as the white parrot, but it is a great whistler, singer and talker. It is caught and sold by the people, and you can buy a good talker for about a dollar and a half gold. Then there are doves here which have golden brown bodies and green wings; white snipe which fly along the shores and a great bird as big as a turkey and in looks not unlike one. I am told that there are black parrots and green parrots, although I have seen only the white and red ones. There are white herons and wild pigeons three times as big as our pigeons at home. The woods contain many wild hogs and there are also deer of various kinds.

## HOW THEY HUNT IN MINDANAO.

The soldiers go off for a hunt now and then in the forest, and they usually are well paid for their time. The natives are fond of hunting and help them. The other day I saw an expedition of the town took a party of the officers and soldiers out to a hunt "a la Mindanao." He had a half dozen great nets, each six feet high and fifty feet long, which were strung up in the woods. They took them to an open place and so set them out that they fenced it in. The lower ends of the nets were fastened to strong, short poles driven firmly in the ground, and the upper ends, through which a rope was run, were hooked over high poles in such a way that if anything ran against the net it would slip off at the top and fall down, inclosing the animal in such a way that the hunter could push it through the net, the more tightly it would be held. These nets ran around the three sides of a square of about two acres. From the corners of the opening the hunters placed themselves in long lines ready to shoot anything that came in the direction of the net. A corps of retainers and slaves with spears and bolos were then started out with dogs to beat up the woods for several miles around. They were so arranged that all the game was driven toward the net, and after an hour or so, half a dozen deer, two hogs and a drove of peccaries came rushing toward the opening. Several were shot by the soldiers and three hogs tangled themselves up in the net and while thus struggling were killed. Pig shooting is one of the common amusements of our southern Philippine islands. It is the chief sport of the Sultan of Sulu, and the Sultan of Sulu, I am told, has his regular hunts during the season. The pigs are black deer-like animals, of the kind known as razor-backs, such as you find in the mountains of the South. They will fight when brought to bay, so that the sport is by no means unaccompanied by danger. The flesh of the wild hog is delicious. It is exceedingly sweet, and has a gamey flavor.

## AS BIG AS MASSACHUSETTS.

I am surprised at the extent of this island of Mindanao. The province of Davao is larger than the State of Massachusetts, but I doubt whether its cultivated portion is greater than the District of Columbia. The country is almost all wild. The mountainous portion is covered with forests, interspersed here and there with strips of natural pasture. The grass is rich

A Land of Monkeys, Parrots and Wild Hogs—Boar Hunting With Nets—A Province as Big as Massachusetts, Which May be the Dairy Land of Our Asiatic Possessions—Something About the Timber and a Look at a Mahogany House—Suggestions for the Agricultural Department—How the People Farm—What Our Soldiers are Doing—Queer Features of Town Life—A Word About the Climate and Chances for Americans—A Look at Mount Apo, an Active Volcano which is the Highest Point in the Philippine Islands.

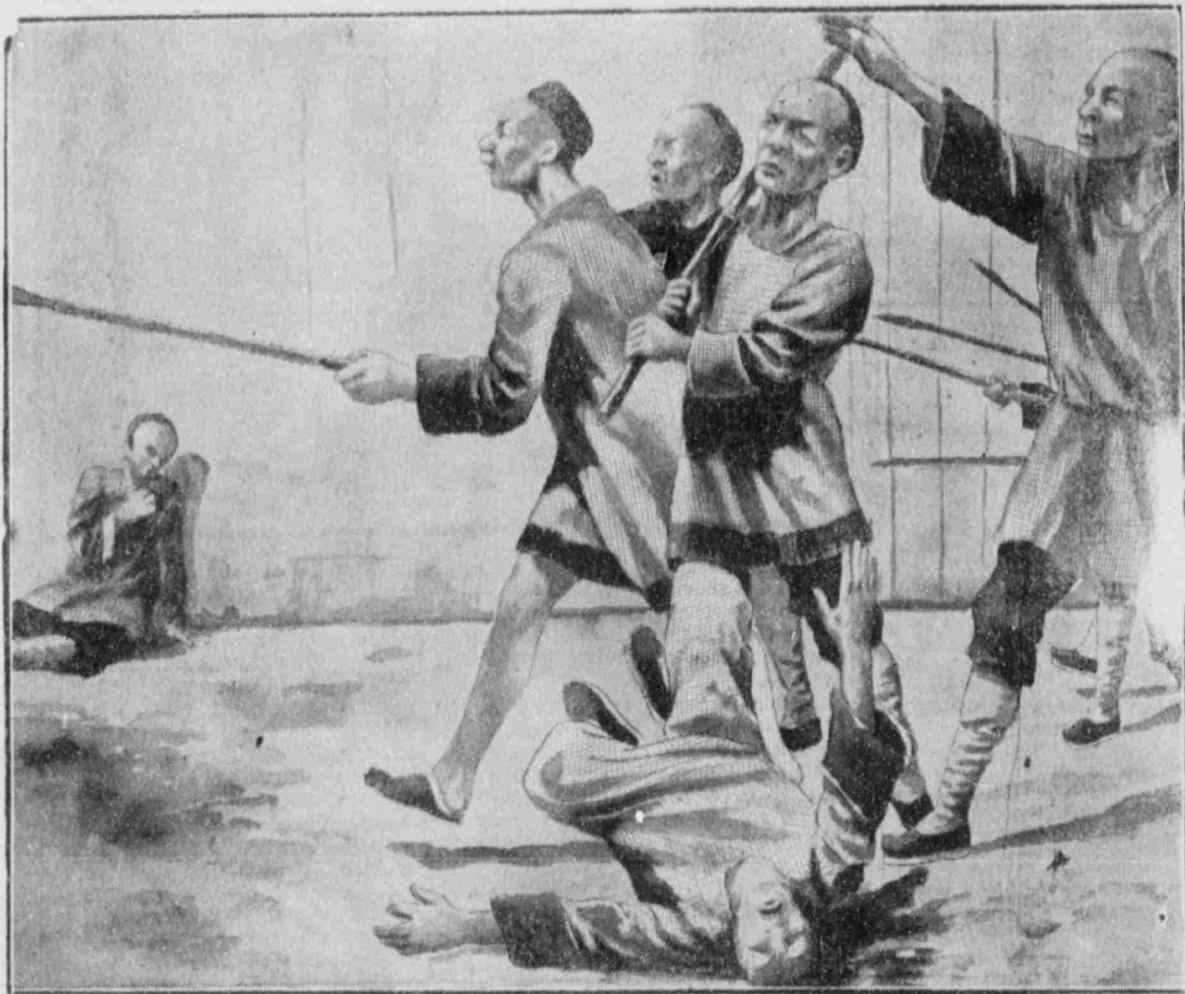
and it forms excellent grazing. There are many herds of from fifty to one hundred cattle, and near Mati, a town about twenty or thirty miles east of here, there is one man who has about 2,000 head of stock. The cattle of this region are like those I saw about Zamboanga, a cross between the sacred cow of India and what is probably the Australian cow. The animals look like Jerseys. They give milk in small quantities, but of the richest quality. The people do not use

this rich black soil. It will grow almost anything—sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes and maize. I am told by the natives that wheat, barley and the hardier grains can be grown in the mountains and that coffee and cacao would evidently thrive in the lowlands. There are many delicious bananas and one or two large banana plantations. Captain Burchfield, who runs the officers' mess, has cleared about a quarter of an acre just outside of the town and has planted sweet potatoes, water-

There is not a glass window, a chimney nor a bit of plaster in the whole town. The windows are mere holes in the walls with shutters which can be raised or slid back, and the floors of most of the houses are of strips of bamboo, in some cases so far apart that you have to be careful not to catch your toes in the cracks while walking over them in your bare feet.

FENCES OF GROWING PICKETS. The houses are all some distance back

## DEADLY YELLOW-JACKETS STING ALL CHRISTENDOM TO ACTION.



the milk for cheese or butter. They let the calves suck with the cows, and as a result they have but small udders. The country is especially well watered; it has cold springs and mountain streams furnishing as good water as the dairy counties of Orange and Delaware in New York. The cattle thrive, and it would seem that this might become a great dairy land and supply the butter and cheese of this part of the world. Such articles have been imported chiefly from Europe and the United States, but of late a large amount of Australian dairy products and Australian beef is being brought in.

## A LAND OF VALUABLE TIMBER.

The timber here is excellent, and the mountains are covered with it. The trees are large and straight, many of them extending upward for fifty or seventy-five feet without a knot or a limb. There are ninety varieties of wood, soft and hard, including mahogany, teak, ebony, walnut and cedar. The cedar is of a delicate pink, and could be used for cigar boxes. There are also trees which yield valuable dye woods. They are red, yellow and of other colors. It is said that rubber trees exist, but I see no rubber in the markets, and have no reliable information regarding it.

A great deal of resin is brought into Davao. Some comes from a tree called Almalaga. It is a transparent, yellowish resin, and is shipped to Paris, where it is used for making wax dolls and also for varnish. The trees are tapped, and the thick sap that runs out hardens before it falls to the ground. It is pulled from the trunks in lumps and brought in by the natives for sale.

All the lumber here is sawed out by hand, the logs being brought to the town and here cut into pieces, board by board. A house is being built of mahogany here in Davao. It is a two-story structure, fully thirty feet square, on posts of teak wood, eighteen inches in diameter and ten inches high. The roof is of bamboo poles, with a thatch of green nipa leaves; the dark, heavy, heavy wood forms the walls, and the tall coconut trees which hang over it give it a picturesque inconceivable to people who know only the temperate zone. When I went by the house this morning the carpenters were at work. Logs, sixty feet long and two feet square lay about everywhere. One was upon trees and two natives were sawing it by hand into boards. I am told that the workmen have been laboring upon this house for two years, and that it has already cost \$4,000.

Even with good saw mills the difficulties of lumbering in this country will be great. It will be almost impossible to get some of the wood out. The trees in many places are bound together with long vines or vines, making an almost impenetrable jungle. There are frequent streams, but many varieties of the wood are so heavy that they will not float, although I should think that they might be brought to the seacoast on rafts of bamboo. I am told that the logs of soft wood and those of hard wood are sometimes floated down together, every alternate log being of some soft, light wood, such as cedar, thus counteracting the weight of the heavy ebony or rosewood or teak.

## OUR SOLDIERS' GARDENS.

The soil about Davao appears to me to be exceedingly rich. It is a black loam, and in places from six to ten feet in depth. There seems, in fact, to be no end to it, for where the rivers cut through you see nothing but

melons, cantaloupes and other such things. His vegetables are all growing finely, and in a short time he will have a better garden than you can find in the States.

It would be a good idea for the secretary of agriculture to send seeds to all of our permanent posts in the Philippines. Each station would start its own garden and we would thus have a large number of experimental farms at no cost whatever to the government. The people would learn something of our methods of farming, and the posts would serve as little agricultural schools, which would be of great value in aiding the work of civilization.

## THEY NEED AMERICAN TOOLS.

What the natives especially need just now are agricultural implements. They do everything in the most difficult way. Such implements as steel harrows and plows are unknown. There are not, I venture to say, a dozen plows in the province of Davao, and such as there are, merely crooked sticks, with a piece of iron fastened to the end for a mould board. The harrows are bamboo poles with the limbs so trimmed that they scratch the earth when the poles are dragged over it. I have seen no hoes, nor anything in the way of good tools. Notwithstanding this, all kinds of seeds sprout up and grow luxuriantly, it being only necessary to keep down the weeds.

I am told that Major Hunter Liggett, who is in charge of the soldiers in this region, has already sent to the agricultural department for a supply of seeds. He wants all sorts of vegetables, including peas, beans, cabbages and cauliflowers. He should have a variety of lettuce and radishes, and in fact everything in the vegetable line. It might be a good idea to include some tobacco and cotton seeds, as well as the seeds of the rubber plants which are now being cultivated in Brazil. Grasses should be sent to test the grazing possibilities, and if some Holstein or Ayrshire cattle could be put upon some of our milk-producing capacity of the country could be made.

## THE TOWN OF DAVAO.

I wish you could take a walk with me through the town of Davao. It is more like a horrid garden than a United States village. Imagine thousands of tall palms waving their fan-like leaves in the air above a collection of thatched cottages built along wide level streets. Let some of the palms have great bunches of green and yellow coconuts hanging to them and others be loaded with the round green and yellow nuts of the betel. Let there be bananas here and there, beds of nipa, great fern-like bunches of leaves, each fifteen feet long and a yard wide, sprouting up from the ground. Put in cotton trees from twenty to thirty feet high, their leafless branches standing out at right angles with their white trunks, and great balls of white wool hanging to them. Let there be flowers of strange shapes and colors. Hang an orchid here and there upon a dead branch and under all put a turf as thick and as green as that of the blue grass of Kentucky and have some idea of Davao, which has but few weeks been occupied by our troops. You must add, however, the houses, cottages more picturesque than any you find in the mountains of Switzerland. Some, in fact, look like Swiss chalets except that they are built upon high poles and you must mount stairs to reach the first floor. Some have walls of a basket work of woven bamboo. Others have walls of boards, and not a few walls of gray thatch composed of grass or nipa. The roofs of all the houses are of the nipa palm sewed to a framework of bamboo poles in such a way that it comes out over the walls with wide extending eaves.

from the street, fenced off by pickets driven into the ground. The pickets have been put in green, and it is an evidence of the richness of the soil that the most of them are sprouting out green branches and leaves. There are no gardens about the houses, no beds of flowers, nothing but grass and trees of various kinds.

A common tree is the mango, which here grows as big as the giants of our forests, and which is now loaded down with fruit. The boys and girls may be seen everywhere, throwing clubs into the branches of these trees and knocking down the fruit, just as our boys do in the States.

Speaking of the children, they swarm. The crop of humanity is bigger than any other, every family having from six to a dozen. The inhabitants of the town are Visayans or Christians, and their children are exceedingly bright. Although the troops have been here only a few days the little ones have already learned to say "good morning," "good evening," and "good day." They hardly understand the precise meaning of the words, and they frequently give the three citations of the words at once. They also say "American much bueno," and seem very much pleased to have the soldiers here. Major Liggett will open a school for them next week, and he is now having a new roof put on the school house. He will have one hundred and sixty children of school age to start with, and will begin with two female teachers and one male. He expects to have them taught English and to make English the principal study. He says the children are very quick to learn, and he believes they will be made into American citizens in the future.

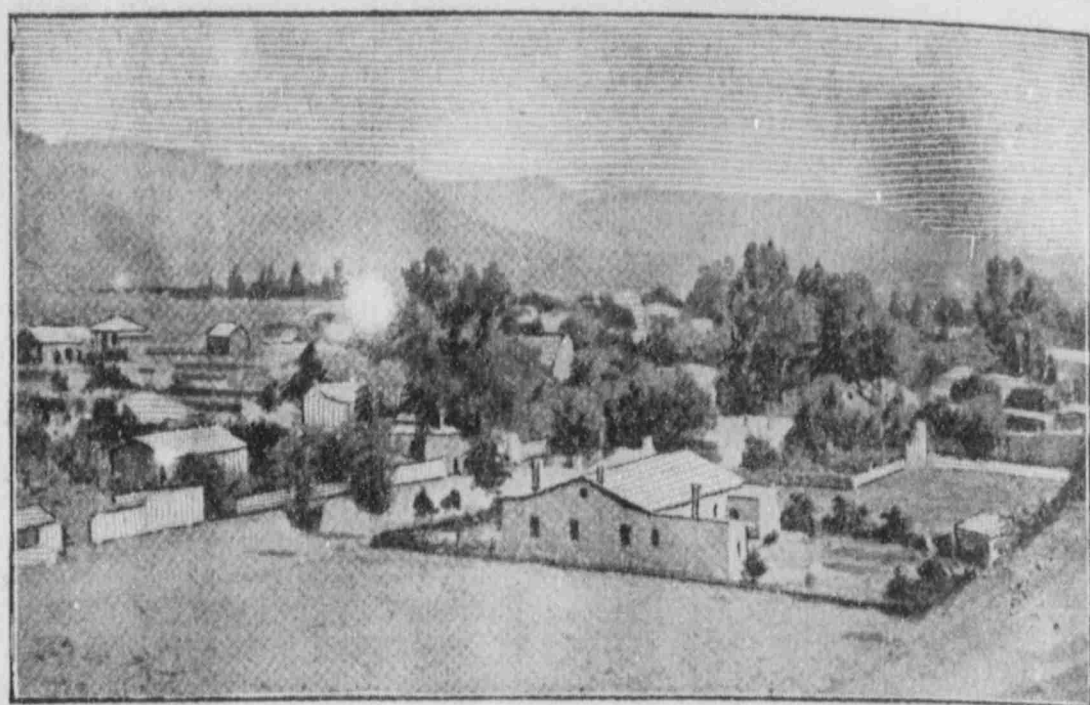
## OUR SOLDIERS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

I find here at Davao, as at every other place where I have been, that the soldiers have made great improvements. As soon as they take charge of a post they set men to cleaning the streets. They make them remove all the garbage, open up the gutters and cut down decaying vegetation. There are, I venture, no cleaner towns in the United States than those occupied by our soldiers in Mindanao. While I was at Zamboanga, Colonel Pettit was having a canal striped of its vegetation and garbage. This was done by natives, who went through and pulled up the weeds with their hands and scooped up the filth in the same way. Pollock, on the Gulf of Iloilo, is as clean as a new pin and the same may be said of Davao. Major Liggett is repairing the public buildings. He has put a new roof on the hospital and he is now having a roof sewed onto the building occupied by himself and his staff as headquarters. This building covers at least a quarter of an acre. It has several large rooms, with a great porch twelve feet wide running about it and a veranda in front. The roof is of a ridge shape and so large that it would take about nine shingles to cover it. Each of these shingles is made of leaves fastened together with strips of rattan, and all are being sewed to a framework of bamboo poles which forms the foundation of the roof. There will probably be 5,000,000 stitches in the roof, but when completed it will be as tight as any steel roof of the United States and cooler than any covering that can be made here.

## THE SOLDIERS ARE WELL.

I have had a talk with Capt. A. L. Haines, the surgeon of the post, as to the health of the troops. He tells me that they are in good physical condition and that they stand the climate remarkably well. He says the statements as to the unhealthiness of the Philippines are greatly exaggerated and that the soldiers are more healthy here than in most parts of the United States. Those who are stationed at Da-

## RED BADGE OF COURAGE FLAMES O'ER PRETORIA.



Oom Paul no longer "smokes his pipe and reads his Bible on the front porch" of his one-time home in the Boer capital. British horses trample his Dutch tulips and red-coated lancers and dragoons lounge through the Kruger mansion. Meanwhile the Kaffir cook, hustling with unwonted energy to meet the epicurean wishes of the "buckra ossifers," meditates deeply on the mutability of the changeable.

vao came to this place almost directly from the States and went at once into camps and barracks. So far there have been but two sick in quarters and scarcely any in the hospital. Capt. Haines says that the diseases that they have are not the result of their residence here, but of things contracted in the past. He says that there is some intermittent malaria fever, which yields readily to treatment. Typhoid and consumption are practically unknown among the natives, and although the people have no medical attendance they live to a good old age. The mortality among children is great, largely owing to their ignorance as to the laws of health, and also that little trouble is taken to save the sickly child's life. There are no intestinal disorders to speak of and ordinary care as to fruit and water is all that is necessary. Capt. Haines thinks that white men can live and work in this country quite as well as in the southern parts of the United States. I have heard similar statements from others. I think, however, such statements should be carefully weighed before being accepted as final. I find that one grows tired much more quickly here than in the States. It is not at midday and I doubt whether our people can live in the tropics and do any considerable manual labor. If one merely acts as an overseer, keeping the children in the middle of the day, there is no reason why he should not live just as comfortably as at home, but the working of the islands by American labor would seem to me to be still a matter of experiment.

A MAN'S DUTY TO HIS FAMILY. A man's duty to his family, remarks the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, is first to provide for its current expenses, and next to make some provision for wife and children in the event of his death, also if possible to lay by something for old age. The time to begin saving for those purposes is not before marriage, certainly is immediately after it. Whatever one's income, large or small, a man who has assumed family responsibilities has incurred the obligation not only to live within his income, but to lay by something for a rainy day. No husband and father with steady income or wages and no right to spend as he goes. He may not be able to save much, but a little each year, if continued through a life time, will amount to a considerable sum, and will, in the emergency which, in some form, comes to most men, be of great value. The few only can "make" money. The many, if they will, can save it. Good management, systematic living and economy in expenditure will enable many more to put by a little every year than do it now. Every young married man ought to take out a life insurance policy in some well-established company, avoiding those companies which do not have the promise of permanency. The longer this is postponed the dearer will be the insurance and the greater risk of inability to secure a policy on account of some physical derangement or weakness. Life insurance is now so carefully regulated under the laws of several States that it is one of the safest investments that can be made. There are admirable plans of insurance, under which the insured can provide, either for his family after his death, or by means of endowment policies or conversion of policies late in life into annuities, secure at least a small income for his old age. There is an honorable and manly shrinking on the part of most men from entire dependence, even upon family friends or chil-

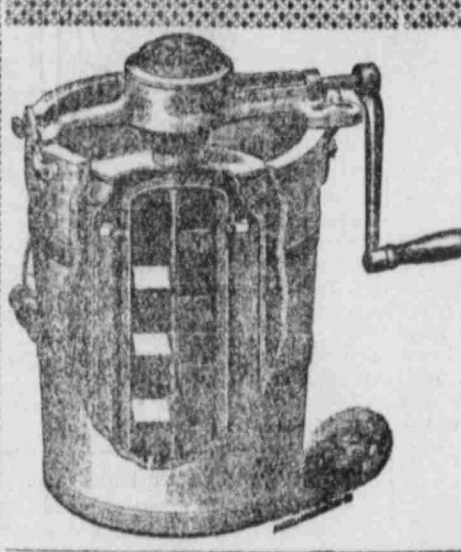
dren in old age, but many, in the flush of their youth, are against them, and consider how rapidly the years go by and how comparatively soon they will appreciate, by practical experience, the value of provisions for independent support, that they were born under an of life is lengthening, and it is not that of 1,000 men and women living at thirty years of age, more than half will be living at sixty-eight.

Care of ability or gradation of purpose, but also, as a rule, from some cause within ourselves. If we put gold into the mint, we naturally expect to get coined gold in return. If we get shoddy into the loom, we expect to get shoddy cloth.

## HOW ABOUT YOUR FAILURE?

Many people labor under the delusion that destiny is against them, and that Orison Swift Marden in the June "Success," that some cruel fate has decreed their failure or unhappiness. They believe they are handicapped in the race, that they are not as other people, that they were born under an unlucky star, and that they cannot, by any effort of theirs, do what others can do. They do not dream of attributing their failure to achieve results in life to a lack of ability or gradation of purpose, but firmly believe that some mocking fate is bent upon making them miserable.

If we can only get a glimpse of the reality of life, the principle of our being, we shall find that every defect in our lives not only comes from a cause, but also, as a rule, from some cause within ourselves. If we put gold into the mint, we naturally expect to get coined gold in return. If we get shoddy into the loom, we expect to get shoddy cloth.



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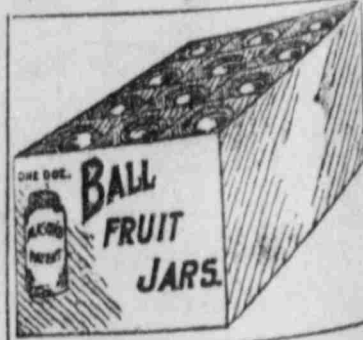
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